

Application No.: 10/649,706

Docket No.: 22270-00001-US1

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 13, and 16 are independent. Claims 13 and 16 have been amended, claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice, and claim 18 has been added by this amendment.

Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as filed. Accordingly, the amendments do not constitute the addition of new matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

With respect to points 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Office Action stated that claims 1-12 are allowable, and that claims 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, applicant has amended claim 13 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 17, and claim 16 has been amended into independent form. Dependent claim 18 has been added to recite the subject matter of dependent claim 15, but depending from allowable claim 16. Therefore, added claim 18 is allowable.

Anticipation Rejection Over Dowlatabadi

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dowlatabadi (US 5,963,071) is requested. Claim 13 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 17, and claims 14-15 depend from allowable claim 13, thus rendering the rejection moot.

Conclusions

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the specification and pending claims 1-16 and 18 are now in proper form, and that the claims patentably define over the prior art of

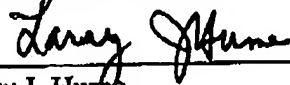
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record. Therefore, applicants respectfully request issuance of this case at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22270-00001-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Larry J. Hurbe

Registration No.: 44,163

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036-3425

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant